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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Nicholas G. DUFFIELD et al.

Group Art Unit: 2664

Application No.: 09/420,565

Examiner: C. Ho

Filed: October 19, 1999

Docket No.: 103887

For: VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

**RECEIVED**

DEC 12 2002

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**Technology Center 2600**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the September 10, 2002 Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 and 21 as follows:

- AL*
1. (Amended) A method for providing a virtual private network service, comprising:  
establishing a hose for each of a plurality of endpoints of a virtual private network, the hose does not reference another endpoint at establishment;  
coupling the hose to endpoints associated with other hoses via routing paths in a network; and  
allocating network resources to support communications between the hose and the other hoses.